July 5, 2020

Dear San Francisco Property Owner:

I am writing to inform you of the assessed value for your property as of January 1, 2020. The net assessed value is the basis for your 2020-2021 property tax bill that will be mailed to you before November 1.

Your assessed value may have changed from the previous year due to the following reasons:

1. Inflationary increase of up to 2% allowed under Proposition 13. The inflation factor for this year is 2.0%.
2. Change in ownership of your entire property or portion of property.
3. New construction, including remodeling, addition, etc. (Line “B” reflects the assessment for ongoing new construction projects as of January 1, 2020)
4. Restoration of factored base year value from prior year temporary reductions due to economic conditions, fire damage, or other calamity.

This is an informational letter, no action is required. However, if you believe your property’s market value on January 1, 2020 is less than the 2020-2021 Factored Base Year Value shown above, you may file a formal appeal with the Assessment Appeals Board beginning July 2, 2020 with a deadline of September 15, 2020.

Answers to frequently-asked questions are provided on the back of this notice. If you have further questions, please visit our website www.sfassessor.org or contact us through San Francisco’s one-stop 311 Customer Service Center by dialing 3-1-1 (within San Francisco’s 415 area code) or by calling 415-701-2311 (outside San Francisco).

Sincerely,

Carmen Chu
Assessor-Recorder

Translations of this notice are available:
Esta carta y formulario está disponible en español: www.sfassessor.org/forms-spanish
此信件和申報表的內容有中文版本: www.sfassessor.org/forms-chinese
Ang sulat at form na ito ay available sa Filipino: www.sfassessor.org/forms-tagalog
Q1. How is my property’s assessed value determined?

In 1978, Proposition 13 passed in California which governs state property tax law. Generally, under this law, a base year value is set when you purchase your property or complete new construction. This value is the starting point that is used to calculate your ongoing annual assessments.

After the base year value is set, it is adjusted annually for inflation, with any annual increase limited to not more than 2% (For example, inflation factor is 2% for FY 2020-21). This adjusted value is known as the “factored base year value.” Remember, base year value may also be adjusted if there is:

♦ A change in ownership of the property; OR
♦ New construction activity (new construction may include construction of new buildings, remodeling, additions, etc.)

Usually, the factored base year value, minus eligible exemptions, is the net assessed value which is used to calculate your property taxes.

Q2. Why does the assessed value not reflect my recent purchase price or the added value of my new construction?

A common reason may be that your assessed value for the current tax cycle has not been updated to reflect the changes. After we have processed your case and have made changes to our records, including updating the assessment, we will issue you a Notice of Supplemental and/or Escape Assessment. This letter will notify you of the difference between the prior value and the market value at the time of purchase or market value of your new construction. You will then receive a corresponding tax bill from the Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector (a separate office) to cover that difference in value.

Note: Please pay the taxes billed by the Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector or you may incur penalties. Remember to set aside funds to pay for any increase in taxes that are not yet reflected in the records.

Q3. What is the difference between the Office of the Assessor-Recorder and the Office of the Treasurer & Tax-Collector?

The Office of the Assessor-Recorder is responsible for determining the assessed value of your property.

The Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector, a separate organization, is responsible for mailing out tax bills, collecting payments, applying penalties and issuing refunds.

Q4. How do I calculate my property tax?

Your net assessed value is not the amount you owe in property taxes. Your property taxes are generally calculated by taking the net assessed value multiplied by the yearly tax rate. See the formula below:

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\text{Assessed Value} \times \text{Tax Rate} = \text{Property Tax Due}
\]

The tax rate for this fiscal year has not yet been established by the Board of Supervisors. But you may estimate your taxes by multiplying your net assessed value by last year’s tax rate of 1.1801%.

For example, if the net assessed value is $700,000, your property tax will be approximately $8,261.

\[
\begin{align*}
\$700,000 \times 0.011801 &= \$8,260.70 \\
\end{align*}
\]

Please note, on top of this amount there may be additional special assessment/fees/lien included on your tax bill.

Q5. What is the Homeowner’s Exemption? Does that reduce my tax bill?

If you own and occupy your property as a primary residence, you may be eligible for a Homeowner’s Exemption.

The Homeowner’s Exemption is a $7,000 deduction from your assessed value, not from your property tax due. Using the example above, if you qualify for the exemption, your assessed value will be reduced to $693,000 ($700,000-$7,000) and you should expect to save $82.61.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(Net Assessed Value)} - \text{Exemption} &= \text{New Assessed Value} \\
\$700,000 - \$7,000 &= \$693,000 \\
\$693,000 \times 0.011801 &= \$8,178.09 \\
\end{align*}
\]

If you are eligible and do not see an exemption amount listed on the front page, please download the Homeowner's Exemption Claim form from our website (www.sfassessor.org).

Q6. What if I disagree with my assessed value?

You may file a formal appeal with the Assessment Appeals Board, an independent review board appointed by the Board of Supervisors, beginning July 2, 2020 with a deadline of September 15, 2020.

Application information may be obtained from the Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board, City Hall – Room 405, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by visiting www.sfgov.org/aab.